

## Message Text

SECRET

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22

ACTION SS-25

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P 060900Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8535

INFO CINCPAC

S E C R E T MANILA 11733

EXDIS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP, OVIP (ROBINSON, C.W.)

SUBJ: MARCOS-ROBINSON MEETING AUGUST 6, 1976

1. GOP HAS USED VISIT OF DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBINSON TO PRESS U.S. FOR MORE EXPLICIT STATEMENT OF ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER US-RP MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY. PRESIDENT MARCOS MADE CLEAR IN MEETING WITH DEPSEC AND IN AIDE MEMOIRE (SEPTTEL) THAT THIS STATEMENT IS SOUGHT PRIMARILY IN CONNECTION WITH PHILIPPINE CLAIMS TO REED BANK AREA. ALTHOUGH MARCOS DID NOT RPT NOT EXPLICITLY ASK FOR SUPPORT OF PHILIPPINE CLAIM, HE STATED THAT HIS COMING NEGOTIATIONS WITH VIETNAMESE AND CHINESE ON THIS ISSUE WOULD BE MADE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT IF U.S. TAKES POSITION THAT IT WILL NOT CONSIDER AN ATTACK ON PHILIPPINE FORCES OR VESSELS IN THAT AREA ACTIONABLE UNDER ARTICLES IV AN V OF MDT.

2. MARCOS SAID PROGRESS ON MILITARY BASES NEGOTIATIONS WAS DIRECTLY RELATED TO SATISFACTORY U.S. RESPONSE ON THIS ISSUE. ALTHOUGH HE ORIGINALLY INDICATED THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE "SUSPENDED" PENDING U.S. REPLY TO GOP AIDE MEMOIRE, HE SUBSEQUENTLY AGREED THAT TALKS COULD CONTINUE "ON DETAILS" BUT THAT MAJOR POLITICAL DECISIONS WAOULD AWAIT U.S. STATEMENT ON OUR MDT OBLIGATIONS.

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3. U.S. REPS ATTEMPTED TO PLACE VARIOUS U.S. STATEMENTS

ON THIS SUBJECT IN APPROPRIATE CONTEXT AND TO STRESS  
CONSTANCY OF U.S. DEFENSE COMMITMENTS. DEPSEC ALSO  
STRESSED WILLINGNESS U.S. TO CONTINUE MILITARY BASES  
NEGOTIATIONS IN GOOD FAITH AND TO REACH AGREEMENT AS  
SOON AS POSSIBLE. MARCOS GENERALLY BRUSHED ASIDE  
EXPLANATIONS OF U.S. POSITION AND SAID THAT THERE WAS  
SIGNIFICANT "AMBIGUITY" WHICH NEEDED TO BE CLARIFIED.

4. U.S. REPS POINTED OUT THAT PUBLIC STATEMENTS  
BY GOP OFFICIALS CASTING DOUBTS ON VALIDITY OF U.S.  
DEFENSE OBLIGATIONS WEAKENED PHIL HAND IN DEALING WITH  
OTHER CLAIMANTS TO REED BANK AREA. MARCOS SAID HE HAD  
ORDERED ALL OFFICIALS TO REFRAIN FROM DISCUSSING THIS  
SUBJECT.

5. MARCOS, ROMULO AND ENRILE ALL REHASHED WITH SOME SHOW  
OF BITTERNESS THE ALLEGED U.S. FAILURE TO BE  
RESPONSIVE TO THEIR NEED FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT WHEN MUSLIM  
ATTACKS BEGAN IN MINDANAO IN 1972. THEY STRESSED THAT  
THIS FAILURE GAVE THEM CAUSE TO DOUBT THAT, IN A FUTURE  
CRISIS, U.S. WOULD BE WILLING TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO  
ASSIST THE PHILIPPINES.

6. WHILE DEPSEC WAS TALKING PRIVATELY WITH MARCOS, ROMULO  
TOOK PAINS TO POINT OUT TO HUMMEL AND SULLIVAN THAT USSR  
HAD BACKED VIETNAMESE CLAIMS TO SPRATLEYS. HE SUGGESTED  
U.S. SHOULD DO THE SAME FOR PHILIPPINE CLAIMS. HE DID  
NOT, HOWEVER, PURSUE THIS LINE AND ENRILE INDICATED  
ACCEPTANCE OF FACT THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE TO TREAT AREA  
AS DISPUTED TERRITORY.  
SULLIVAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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